

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Team  
September 8, 1999 – Sheboygan**

**Notes**

(prepared by Bill Horns, September 9, 1999)

**Present:** Paul Peeters, Terry Lychwick, George Boronow, Steve Hogler, Mike Toney, Dick Rebicek, Matt Coffaro, Gus Ernst, Brad Eggold, Brian Belonger, Pradeep Hirethota, Jim Moore, Jeff Bode, Tom Hansen, Mark Opgenorth, Al Blizel.

**Next Meeting:** Deland Center, Sheboygan, November 18, 1999.

This is a summary of decisions, recommendations, and planned actions arising from the September 9 meeting. It is not intended as a comprehensive review of all discussions. Note. The LMFT charge requires that all team decisions or recommendations be considered during at least two meetings and requires that any recommendation developed at one meeting be ratified at the following meeting. Recommendations and decisions made at any meeting are considered ratified at the following meeting if summarized in the meeting's notes and not raised for discussion and review during consideration of the meeting's notes at the second meeting. In some cases, recommendations or decisions are formally raised for discussion and ratification during the second meeting.

- 1) Ratification of earlier recommendations. The following three positions adopted in July were ratified:
  - i) The LMFT does not endorse either a targeted or incidental catch lake trout fishery, but feels that a separate task force should address the issue of allowing retention of incidentally caught lake trout.
  - ii) The LMFT does not endorse financial credits to commercial fishers for services rendered during routine on-board monitoring.
  - iii) The LMFT supports considering Menominees as an incidental species, rather than as a quota species.I agreed to be prepared to present these positions at the next Commercial Fishing Task Force meeting and to write them up for the information of Dept. Administration and the NRB.
- 2) Process/timetable for resolving the charter reporting issue. We agreed to hold an open public meeting in the Sheboygan areas during January, with all charter captains invited and other interested fishers welcome. At that meeting we will discuss current enforcement problems and seek support for a rule change requiring completion of catch reports prior to landing.
- 3) Criteria for reopening commercial yellow perch fishing in Lake Michigan. The team recommended a) that any such criteria be developed jointly with the other states, b) that no commercial fishing be allowed before the Commercial Fishing Task Force has finished its work and new enforceable regulations are in place, and c) that we take appropriate steps to induce the Yellow Perch Task Force to propose criteria for review by the Lake Michigan Committee at its March meeting. The possibility of a "sentinel" fishery was discussed.

- 4) Commercial Fishing Task Force issues. Concerns were expressed about the drift of things in the Task Force. We agreed that it is important for me to represent the views of the LMFT clearly at the Task Force meetings, and to have appropriate supporting data.
- 5) Great Lakes Action Agendas. It appears that each GMU is proposing items for the Great Lakes Action Agendas. Several members of the LMFT are involved in developing suggestions. We agreed that it would be appropriate for the LMFT to request an opportunity to review Lake Michigan proposals and provide a whole-lake perspective on them.
- 6) Production planning.
  - a) Seeforellen/domestic ratio. Desired ratio's of Seeforellens to domestics (for stocking as yearlings in 2001) were stated for four areas – Green Bay (50/50), Door County (40/60), Manitowoc/Kewaunee Counties (40/60), SER (status quo). I agreed to consult the 2000-2001 production plan, apply these ratios to stocking targets, compute the overall Seeforellen/domestic ratio, and let Steve Fajfer know.
  - b) Distribution of Wild Rose strain. Dick Rebicek and Mark Opgenorth have arranged to re-route Wild Rose brown trout to achieve balance between the SER and NER.
- 7) Possible seasonal designation of Lake Michigan tributaries. Bob Masnado of WT was present to discuss this issue with us. We agreed to the following statement of LMFT position:

*The LMFT, noting that most, if not all, Lake Michigan and Green Bay tributaries provide seasonal habitat for young and/or mature migrating trout, salmon, northern pike, and walleyes, recommends that those streams be protected at least seasonally under Ch. NR 104. We understand that the implementation of this recommendation has work load implications for LMFT members and recognizes that staff time commitments are subject to review by GMU leaders.*
- 8) Salmon Stamp account balance. I reported that it looks like we have developed a substantial balance in the account. **Update** Although it does appear that we have a healthy chunk of money to put into hatchery improvements or other needs, some of the current balance reflects the operation of the new automated license system. In past years salmon stamp receipts from sales before July 1 were not turned in promptly. Now, with the new system, the Department gets the money right away. Thus the unexpectedly high receipts for FY99 probably included a substantial amount that, under the old system, would have appeared as FY00 receipts. This means that the large balance as of the end of FY99, while accurate, is a little misleading.
- 9) The next LMFT meeting will be in Sheboygan on Thursday, November 18, 1999.